



HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

THE PREZ SEZ.....

All LARC members need to be aware that our next meeting in March will start **one half hour early at 7:00 PM**. There is business that must be conducted, following which we will travel to the Environment Canada office on Court Street for a tour.

A decision must be reached at the March meeting for the location of Field Day in June. Input from the membership is necessary to make Field Day worthwhile and attractive to more people, both public and operators. Pass along your input at the meeting, or talk to anyone on the Executive if you can't be at this meeting.

Those of us on the Executive are looking for your suggestions on how to continue to maintain a high level of interest at the monthly meetings. We have had some excellent speakers but there is always room for input from the membership.

Public service events are coming up as the level of the snow goes down. We provide a tremendous service to the organizations that utilize our help. We may not be able to predict the weather for many of these events, but your participation is vital. (it's nice to see our newer hams in these events-Ed.) It might be too cold, too hot or too wet but you can be proud to say, "I did it!!!". The excellent reputation of your club is at stake.

Ian

VA3RIM

EDITORIAL INK.....

Yet another definition:

"appreciate" – to understand, recognize....be grateful for.....

Your editor had the chance to chat over lunch with a **former** LARC member who contributed many, many hours of hard work and dedication to LARC over the past few years. I'm not sure how the topic came up, but he feels that many current members do not fully appreciate or understand the efforts of those who came before us to make the club the success it is today. (This person has **not** renewed his membership.)

Is this a fair criticism? It does seem in retrospect that we always have a handful of members who give their all for a few years, then "retire". Thankfully, there is also a small group who continue their labors year after year for the benefit of us all. A most recent example is the installation of the Upsala repeater.

In an effort to heighten awareness of this topic, I am initiating a monthly column, **'Down Memory Lane'**, to help all of us reflect on the builders who came before us.

73 de ve3avs

(P.S. - my sincere thanks to Jan VA3JRS for her able assistance in checking the March HI-Q proof before publication- Ed.)

**1999/2000 LARC
Founding President
P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW**

LARC maintains the Club call **VE3FW**
to honour his memory.

Senate

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Ray Forslund VE3EDZ
Ray Greer VE3CH
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ
Bill Roberts VE3ARN/7

Executive Board

President: Ian Mellis.....VA3RIM
577-1628

Vice President : Ed Baumann..... VE3SNW
622-1216

Secretary: Norm Bell..... VE3XRC
577-9316

Treasurer: Jan SokoloskiVA3JRS
344-3222

Directors: Andy MalcolmVE3INI
345-1858
Eric ToddVE3XET
626-9720
Bob HansonVA3RVA
767-6924
Pat PughVA3PP
345-8562

Past President: Terry Stewardson.....VE3TKA
577-9439

Club Repeaters

VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET
VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET

***Next Meeting
March 9th, 2000***

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm every second Thursday of
each month at Confederation College in Room 207B of **the
McIntyre Building.**

(except the March 9th meeting at 7:00 PM)

“DOWN MEMORY LANE”

HIGH-Q March 13, 1980...VE3DGZ presented the
“**fickle finger award**” at the February dinner to
Harold, **VE3DBI** (whatever became of it? – Ed.). New
hams were **VE3’s LMC, LMD, LME, LMF, LMW,
LMQ** and **RCN**. Amateurs lost 420-430 MHz while
gaining a new band 902-928 MHz .

There were several pages of technical information
covering digital terminology such as TTL, fan-in, fan-
out and the 54/74L series of chips. Lots of help
identifying some IC’s, and a page of logic symbols.

and **JAY** were actively promoting the
special “**VX**” prefix. It was used 40,189 times and
certificates were mailed to 26 countries. A few dozen
local amateurs used the prefix.

The “Cross Country Ski Tour” saw over 500 skiers
on March 1st in minus 25 degree weather. Check points
were manned by **VE3’s JAQ, KRN, KRJ, KRP, KRL**
and **JAJ** assisted by **EEW** and **HHS**.

EEW – struggling with 40 meter Yagi
XJ – underground cable and mast on tower in Jan.
BCD – toying with a TRS-80 (a what??? Ed.)
ARN – on 10 meters from sunny Arizona
EDZ – building all-band transceiver
KRM – active on lower frequencies from Murillo
JAB – Bob is busy starting a new career
ECV – took his dome to Florida for a tan
DP – recently acquired a Yaesu FT901-D, CW 20/40

The final page of **HIGH-Q** was a fascinating
story from the pen of Frank, **VE3AJ**, describing an
exciting story involving the ship Empress of Scotland
during W. W. 2.

That’s it for this month’s look back into the
year 1980. How many of us can recognize the call-signs
mentioned? How many are still active today?

73 de dave ve3avs

The Intrepid “Moonshiners”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th while many were exercising their fingers on a TV remote or computer mouse, ten of us enjoyed a beautifully moonlit night of cross-country skiing at Kamview Nordic Center.

You could not ask for better ski conditions – a clear sky and almost full moon, mild temperature (for mid-February), well-groomed trails and good friends. We welcomed newcomer **VA3EAP** to the ranks of those who love and live for winter. **VA3BRN** put in a rare appearance while the Bell family was, as usual, well-represented by **VE3XRC**, **XLB** and **VA3MOB**. **RVA** seemed to enjoy his second outing at Kamview and his first winter of retirement.

Oh, sure, the regulars were there – **WRL**, **AVS** and **PP**. **AVS** and **PP** ventured away from the artificially-lit trails onto those lit only by the moon (who mooned whom?) **VUK** made an appearance toward the end of the evening.

Conspicuous by their absence? **FAL** and **FLB**.

A Spell Checker...

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques for my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight for it to say
Where eye am wrong or write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it.
Eye am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

De **VE3BHN**

(TKS Bob – Ed.)

FOR SALE.....

Astron 50 ampere power supply with meters ...only \$3500 (oops that should read only \$350). Can be seen at T&S Radio (767-5224) or QSO Bill **VE4UX**.

MORE FOR SALE....

TS50H mobile transceiver 10-160m
AT50 Automatic tuner
HAM IV antenna rotor
Astron p/w RS35m with meters
64ft Delhi sky scraper
Triband 3 element beam 10-15-20m
Boomer 19-element 2 meter Yagi
2 cophased 5 element 2 meter beam c/w boom/harness
3 mobile whip antennas for 10-20-40m
Lots of used coax in like new condition
New PL259 connectors and other goodies

To be sold as a **complete unit** for \$2000. The owner is **not** interested in selling parts. This price is well below new price. The station is operational and can be seen at 381 Arundel St. or by contacting Les Brown **VE3JAJ** at 683-5304.

Fourth Annual Ontario QSO Party April 29-30th

The QSO Party starts at 1800UTC on the Saturday and runs through ot 1800UTC on the Sunday and is sponsored by the Ontario DX Association. Last year’s Thunder Bay certificate winner was Fred, **VE3FAL**.

This year there will be a certificate issued for the top-scoring station in Northern Ontario. Much more information can be found by logging onto the web site at <http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>. There is also an email discussion group to be accessed by sending a blank email to:

oqp-subscribe@egroups.com

More info can be obtained from VE3SRE at his email address: ve3sre@rac.ca

News from Here and there

IgnaceWally **VA3WGD** writes, “An amateur radio training session is in full swing at the Ignace High School with students having completed 3 evening sessions to date. They expect to be tested by late April. The class consists of 2 women and 5 men taught by Wally Davenport **VA3WGD**. Former A. T. & T. technician John Andrews is both a student and technical advisor. The Amateur Radio Society of Dryden has offered assistance if it is needed. Wally will be trying for his advanced ticket in the near future.”
(good luck Wally – Ed.)

Grand Portage.....Bob **VE3RVA** and Norm **VE3XRC** made the annual trek south to set up a check point station for the John Beargrease 2000 Sled Dog Race. Teams were 12 hours behind schedule because of the lack of snow and the warm temperatures. This allowed snow and air temperatures to drop at sundown thus permitting the teams to race at night. Under these conditions, an all-time record was set this year: not one team was scratched, all completing the 380-mile course. Norm and Bob again received thanks from the Beargrease officials, mushers and fans for a job well done. Congratulations to Bob and Norm for a job again well done. – Ed.)

NEWS from John VA3JMS.....

John writes”...the local weather office is looking for volunteer weather watchers to provide information such as amount of snowfall, etc. A little training would be required but this task would be separate from the Canwarn setup. Volunteers would be utilized on a year-round basis. Amateurs interested should contact John Sacek as follows:

jsacek@norlink.net

Technical musings

And from Andy **VE3INI.....**just a note to keep the members informed on some activities.....70 m should show some activity around Thunder Bay in the near future. There are a couple of 440 repeaters that should be on the air come spring. The TBR 444.825+ repeater should also be back in operation thanks to John **VE3EMI** sorting and testing through boxes of old equipment. Finally, there will be a way you can test out the new dual-band you got for Christmas! A dumpster load of commercial UHF mobiles appeared on the scene recently and it is hoped they can be modified for 440. Terry **VE3TKA** has an interesting project underway – turning a 486 computer into an extremely versatile repeater controller. Warm up that DTMF pad!

RAC News.....the RAC Board of Directors has voted unanimously in favor of dropping the requirement for a 12 WPM code test in Canada. This follows the lead in the U.S. and some European countries. RAC proposes that Canadian amateurs that have passed a 5 WPM code test as well as the necessary written examination be allowed full access to the HF bands. A formal proposal will be submitted to Industry Canada in the near future.

(Editor there are likely very strong feelings both pro and con in our club about this proposal. If you have a well-thought-out argument either way, please email or snail mail to me for inclusion in a future issue of HI-Q. Share those coffee-house mutterings with the membership!)

LARC classes....Ed **VE3SNW** writes “....as of Feb. 1st Ian **VA3RMI** has his 12 wpm code. Also, there are 8 students in the class including some youngsters and 1 lady (**ICY**’s gal) and a few older gentlemen. Things are going well and we have completed resistance and Ohm’s Law already (Feb. 06 email). Classes are taught Thursdays 7:30 to 9:30 and any amateurs showing up will be put to work.”

Bob **VE3RVA** writes..... “The LARC Annual Dinner Meeting was held at the Slovak Legion on Feb. 12th with 40 garrulous gastronomes in attendance. A delicious meal was served at 1845 hours followed by a brief business meeting. Our guest speaker was Ismel Gonzalez, who is from Cuba and works as a teacher of Spanish and as a translator in Thunder Bay. He described present-day conditions in Cuba, outlining both pros and cons of Cuban life. Jan **VA3JRS** organized the drawing of our door prizes as well as the 50-50 draw. Thanks to all who worked at making this dinner another successful one. Special thanks to Keith Fiske **VE3JQ**, one of the club senators, for displaying two artifacts from early days of communications. Few members and guests were able to identify a radiosonde balloon transmitter and a submarine hand key.” (see also February minutes on pages 7 and 8 – Ed.)

From Mike **VE3ZG**.....comments on our volunteers at the John Beargrease race....next up is the Sibley Ski Tour on March 4th. Norm is recruiting volunteers for this event and more bodies are needed to man the checkpoints. Yours truly (ZG) will not be able to participate this year....company is always good ...have fun again this

(News flash from Norm **VE3XRC** – all check points have been manned by operators – helpers are welcome to see how things are done – Ed.)

From the Dictionary of Technical Terms.....

STATE-OF-THE-ART – any computer you can’t afford

OBSOLETE – any computer you own.

MICROSECOND – the time it takes for your state-of-the-art computer to become obsolete

SYNTAX ERROR – walking into a computer store and want to buy a computer and money is no object”.

GUI – what your computer becomes after spilling coffee on it

KEYBOARD – the standard way to generate computer errors

HARD DRIVE – sales technique used by computer salesmen, especially after SYNTAX error

MOUSE – an advanced input device to make computer errors easier to generate.

Flash News from VE3SNW

The first-ever limerick contest has now been extended to May. And here’s a submission from Manitoba:

There once was an amateur from Thunder Bay
Who loved to “dit-dah” all through the day.
Because he taken a course
About a code by Samuel Morse
But now he only uses FM and sideband to play!

(Tks Greg Humphries VE4HUM....Ed.)

And here’s another email received and printed on condition the write not be identified (for obvious reasons):

Have you visited “AJ” Klemacki?
He’s got quite a setup, by cracky.
But so many hours
Spent putting towers
Has made his back yard look tacky!

Do our club meetings sometimes fall into the “same old thing” routine? Jeff **AA6JR** has a few suggestions (via **Radio World**):

Your club has a group of communications experts....some technicians, some speakers, most having interests outside of our hobby. Have each member talk at a meeting for 30 seconds about what they’ve been doing outside of amateur radio. The only unacceptable response is NO response. Can these interests be linked to the hobby? A teacher could demonstrate amateur radio to a class....an auto technician could talk on mobile radio ..someone with computer skills could develop a new header for our newsletter...etc.

(It should not be left to the executive to always come up with ideas for interesting meetings. More good suggestions from Jeff in future issues of HI-Q....Ed.)

1999 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Bank interest	\$1.09
Membership	3420 .00
Voyageur Award	2.00
Vests	50.00
Donations	464.89
Class fees	250.00
Call books	122.00
Annual dinner	62.82
Fifty-fifty draws	122.50

Total Income \$4495.30

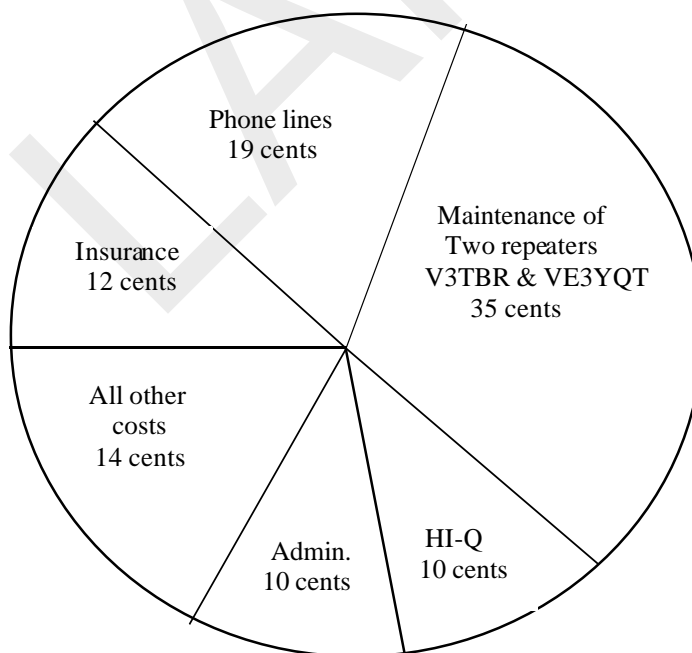
EXPENSES

Licenses	\$96.00
Bank service charges	12.00
Insurance	625.32
RAC Membership	39.95
Telephone lines	919.71
Repeater maintenance	1707.25
HI-Q	498.92
Field Day	50.00
Donations or flowers	298.30
Class expenses	96.60
Administration	490.25
ARES	20.99

Total Expenses \$4855.29

Biggest single source of income is **membership**. Biggest single source of expense is **repeaters**.

HERE'S WHERE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLAR GOES:



If you know someone is using the club repeater(s) but is **not** a paid-up member, please make them aware that **YOU** are paying their share of repeater maintenance. This share goes down with more paid-up memberships. (Thanks to Jan **VA3JRS** for financial information...Ed.)

**Minutes of the 66th Annual Dinner Meeting of the Lakehead
Amateur Radio Club held at the Slovak Legion, Atlantic
Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario on February 12, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen. A moment of silence was observed for silent keys of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. Grace was said by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen.

Following a delicious buffet enjoyed by 40 members and guests, a short business meeting was held presided over by the President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2000 were published in detail in the February edition of "HI-Q" and distributed to all members.

Motion: moved by VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton and seconded by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

Correspondence: none

Treasurer's Report: VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of January 1, 2000		\$ 2,606.01
Income:	Membership Dues	70.00
	Bank Interest	0.04
	Donation	15.00
	50/50 Draw	<u>12.50</u> 97.54
Expenses:	Telephone	79.99
	HI-Q	41.70
	Annual Dinner Deposit	50.00
	Administration	2.65
	RAC Membership	39.95
	Classes	<u>50.00</u> 264.29
Balance as of January 31, 2000		\$ 2,439.26

Motion: moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VE3PD, Pat Doherty that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

Auditor's Report: VA3PP, Pat Pugh and VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki

We have completed a detailed and exhaustive review of the income and the expenditures of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club for the year January 1 to December 31, 1999, and found that all monies have been accounted for. We do recommend however, that some changes be made in the account keeping of expenditures to provide for easier review.

Motion: moved by VE3GTX, John Watson and seconded by VA3XRM Rod McLeod that the Auditor's report be accepted. **Carried.**

Public Service: VE3XRC, Norm Bell

- Dog Sled Races Saturday, February 19, 2000: due to lack of volunteers, we will have to decline the opportunity of providing communications.
- Sibley Ski Tour Saturday March 4, 2000 still requires a few more volunteers. If you can help out, call Norm Bell at 577-9316.

50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was Lisa Sundell.

Next Meeting: to be held on Thursday, March 9 and will consist of a tour of the Environment Canada Weather Office on Court Street as well as the business meeting at Confederation College. Check the March edition of HI-Q for times of the tour and business meeting.

Trivia Question: VE3JQ, Keith Fiske passed around two objects for those in attendance to identify. He also mentioned that he had been a Ham for 69 years. One item was an explosionproof morse code key from a submarine and the other object was a radiosonde transmitter that was taken aloft by a helium balloon.

Adjournment: moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann that the business meeting be adjourned.

Guest Speaker: VE3RVA, Bob Hansen introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Ismel Gonzalez. Ismel is originally from Cuba and graduated from the University of Havana in 1994 with a degree in teaching foreign languages. His teaching degree includes a strong training as a translator and interpreter. He is currently employed at Confederation College. Ismel gave us an overview of the social, political and economic conditions of Cuba. He also stated that Cuba has 360 days of sunshine and 5 days of winter where the temperature might get down to +15 degrees Celsius. Due to the climate, there is no such thing as a furnace in Cuba or cable TV. There are two television channels on the island. He also stated that a bottle of good 45% proof rum sells for \$ 10.00. Following his presentation, Ismel answered questions from the floor. VE3RVA, Bob Hansen thanked Ismel for his presentation and he also thanked those who helped put together the evening's activities. A number of door prizes were drawn for.